



The Iowa Review

Volume 46
Issue 3 *Winter 2016/17*

Article 20

2016

Substantial

Mary-Alice Daniel

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Daniel, Mary-Alice. "Substantial." *The Iowa Review* 46.3 (2016): 98-99. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.7786>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

MARY-ALICE DANIEL

SUBSTANTIAL

I like the toned-down language
scientists use for enormous things:

VERY LARGE ARRAY

BIG CRUNCH

SUPER GIANT

GREAT DYING

HUGE LARGE QUASAR GROUP

SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE

LARGE MAGELLANIC CLOUD

SUPERCONDUCTING SUPER THING

*SUPER OUTBREAK: 18 hours, 13 states, 148 tornadoes—
10-month-old baby in the cupboard with a cut
the night nature lost her goddamn mind.*

To make it more personal,
I will elaborate:
Supercell in 1997 with a Ford-sized dent in the water tower.
We covered our heads with slavery-apologetic textbooks—
*those who knew to hide under underpasses
hid under underpasses.*

&

Massive ships carrying massive ships to ship graveyards.
Aircraft on back of aircraft.
I worry about the delicacy of any creature's joints:
a little creature of a person standing at vulnerable coordinates.

(We are large very super grand hardly enough.)

&

Our construction of the Brooklyn Bridge—
Cables eager to catch humans:

*humans otherwise caught in a net of telephone wires
humans assimilated into the larger borg*

&

Slow-moving wall of ice.
Ice that overtakes some houses.
Perfect circle of ice growing on some rivers.
Unusual snowing. Freak winter of terror.
Small animals freezing where they stand.